UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER
HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _04 June 2008_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1,3,5-17,19 and 21-23_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1,3,5-17,19 and 21-23_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1, 3, 5-17, 19, and 21-23 are pending in this office action.

2.   Applicant's arguments, filed June 4, 2008, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Rejections

3.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5.   Claims 1, 3, 5-17, 19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The independent claims added **wherein the information-added data comprises a first area to which the additional information is added and a second area to which the additional**

information is not added. Nowhere in the specification, drawings, or abstract, can the

examiner find support for distinguishing between two separate areas, one comprising

information-added data and the other not comprising information-added data.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 16, 17, 19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Usami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,814) in view of Davis (U.S.

Patent No. 7,069,584).

Regarding claims 1, 17, and 22, Usami et al. teaches and image processing

apparatus/method/program comprising:

- **An** additional information generating **device that generates** additional

  information (fig. 11, ref. num 62); and

- Adding means for repeatedly adding the additional information to image data to

  generate information-added data so as to make it difficult to visually identify the

  additional information (fig. 11, ref. num 63 and col. 20, lines 10-29).

Usami et al. does not teach **wherein the information-added data comprises a**

first area to which the additional information is added and a second area to which

the additional information is not added, encrypting means for encrypting the

information-added data to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional

information is added and for outputting the encrypted information-added data to an

image forming apparatus, wherein said encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by randomly arranging the additional information together with the image data, and wherein the additional information is randomly arranged across the whole area of the image data.

Davis teaches **wherein the information-added data comprises a first area to which the additional information is added and a second area to which the additional information is not added** (fig. 2, only the Super Pin holds the additional information, the remainder of the Chit contains only image data), encrypting means for encrypting the information-added data to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional information is added and for outputting the encrypted information-added data to an image forming apparatus (fig. 2), wherein said encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by randomly arranging the additional information together with the image data, and wherein the additional information is randomly arranged across the whole area of the image data (col. 3, lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine encrypting information-added data in a position where it is difficult to detect, as taught by Davis, with the system/method/program of Usami et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the confusion of the location of the embedded data provides authentication (see abstract of Davis).

Regarding claim 3, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein said

encrypting means adds key information for specifying an encryption method to the

encrypted information-added data (see col. 1, lines 16-21 of Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 5, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein said

encrypting means arranges the information-added data on the basis of a predetermined

random pattern (see col. 2, lines 22-34 of Usami et al).

Regarding claim 6, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the key

information is information for specifying the random pattern (see col. 2, lines 22-34 of

Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 7, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches transmitting means

for transmitting the image data encrypted by said encrypting means to a connected

image forming apparatus (see fig. 5 of Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 8, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the

additional information includes first information for specifying the image forming

apparatus (see col. 12, lines 39-49 of Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 9, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the first

information is notified from the image forming apparatus (see col. 12, lines 39-49 of

Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 10, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the

additional information includes second information associated with a processing

environment for the image data (see col. 4, lines 31-46 of Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 11, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the

second information includes information for specifying the image processing apparatus

(see col. 4, lines 31-46 of Usami et al.).

Regarding claim 16, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein the

image data is color image data made of a plurality of color components, and said adding

means adds the additional information to data of a predetermined color component of

the color image data (see col. 2, lines 40-53, 66-67 and col. 3, lines 1-20 of Usami et

al.).

Regarding claim 19, Usami et al. teaches an image processing system having an

image processing apparatus connected to an image forming apparatus (fig. 5 and col. 1,

lines 16-20),

Said image processing apparatus including

- **An** additional information generating **device that generates** additional information (fig. 11, ref. num 62);

- Adding means for repeatedly adding the additional information to image data to generate information-added data so as to make it difficult to visually identify the additional information (fig. 11, ref. num 63);

- Transmitting means for transmitting the encrypted image data to said image forming apparatus (fig. 5); and

  Said image forming apparatus including

- Receiving means for receiving the encrypted data transmitted from said image processing apparatus (fig. 12, ref. num 51) and

- Image forming means for forming a visible image on the basis of the decrypted information-added data (fig. 12, ref. num 65 and col. 16, lines 18-30).

Usami et al. does not teach **wherein the information-added data comprises a first area to which the additional information is added and a second area to which the additional information is not added,** encrypting means for encrypting the information-added data to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional information is added or decrypting means for obtaining the information-added data by decrypting the received encrypted data, wherein said encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by randomly arranging the additional information together with the image data, and wherein the additional information is randomly arranged across the whole area of the image data.

Davis teaches **wherein the information-added data comprises a first area to which the additional information is added and a second area to which the additional information is not added** (fig. 2, only the Super Pin holds the additional information, the remainder of the Chit contains only image data), encrypting means for encrypting the information-added data to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional information is added and decrypting means for obtaining the information-added data by decrypting the received encrypted data (fig. 2), wherein said encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by randomly arranging the additional information together with the image data, and wherein the additional information is randomly arranged across the whole area of the image data (col. 3, lines 50-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine encrypting information-added data in a position where it is difficult to detect and decrypting the encrypted information, as taught by Davis, with the system of Usami et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the confusion of the location of the embedded data provides authentication (see abstract of Davis).

Regarding claim 21, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teaches wherein

- Said encrypting means adds key information for specifying an encryption method to the encrypted information-added data (see col. 1, lines 16-21 of Usami et al); and

- Said decrypting means decrypts the encrypted data on the basis of the key information added by said encrypting means (see col. 16, lines 18-30 of Usami et al.).

Regarding <u>claim 23</u>, <u>Usami et al.</u> as modified by <u>Davis</u> teaches a storage medium storing the program defined in claim 22 (see fig. 1 of Usami et al.).

<u>Claims 12-15</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Usami et al.</u> (USPN '814) and <u>Davis</u> (USPN '941) in view of <u>Ito et al.</u> (US 2001/0013097 A1).

Regarding <u>claim 12</u>, <u>Usami et al.</u> as modified by <u>Davis</u> teach all the limitations for the following limitation. <u>Ito et al.</u> teaches wherein the information for specifying the image processing apparatus includes a network ID of the image processing apparatus (paragraph 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of <u>Ito et al.</u> within the system of <u>Usami et al./Davis</u> because a network ID is essential for the image processing apparatus to be identifiable and hence connected to a network.

Regarding claim 13, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teach all the limitations

except for the following limitation. Ito et al. teaches wherein the network ID is acquired

in accordance with a type of network to which the image processing apparatus is

connected (paragraph 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of Ito et al. within the system of Usami et al./Davis

because a network ID is essential for the image processing apparatus to be identifiable

and hence connected to a network.

Regarding claim 14, Usami et al. as modified by Davis teach all the limitations

except for the following limitation. Ito et al. teaches wherein the information for

specifying the image processing apparatus includes a user ID of the image processing

apparatus (paragraph 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of Ito et al. within the system of Usami et al./Davis

because a network ID is essential for the image processing apparatus to be identifiable

and hence connected to a network.

Regarding <u>claim 15</u>, <u>Usami et al.</u> as modified by <u>Davis</u> teach all the limitations

except for the following limitation. <u>Ito et al.</u> teaches wherein the second information

includes processing date information of the image data (abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to combine the teachings of <u>Ito et al.</u> within the system of <u>Usami et al./Davis</u>

because the processing date information will enable ID of the embedded supplemental

information to be unique and hence more secure.

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant argues that the combination of references do not teach wherein the

information-added data comprises a first area to which the additional information is

added and a second area to which the additional information is not added.

Regarding applicant's argument, examiner disagrees. Davis teaches, at fig. 2,

only the Super Pin holds the additional information, the remainder of the Chit contains

only image data.

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to BRANDON S. HOFFMAN whose telephone number is

(571)272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Nasser G. Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon S Hoffman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2136

/Nasser G Moazzami/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2136